

REMARKS

Allowance is respectfully requested in view of the indications of allowability in the Office Action mailed January 26, 2006, and the amendments herein. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, and 20-28 are now pending. Claims 8 and 16-19 are canceled, claims 4, 5, 9, 10 are amended, and new claims 23-28 are added. No new matter has been added.

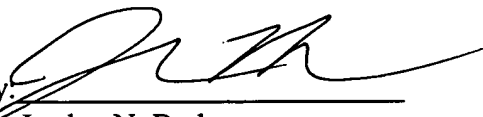
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3-5, 12-15, and 20 are allowed, and that claims 10, 11, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, there are four independent claims. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been allowed, and independent claims 10 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form and are allowable as indicated in the Office Action. In addition, all rejected claims have been canceled or amended to depend from an allowed independent claim. Several new dependent claims were also added and are allowable by virtue of depending from an allowed independent claim.

Applicants are also simultaneously filing an Information Disclosure Statement including a related European search report and references cited therein. However, neither the search report nor the references teach or suggest the features of the pending claims.

It is therefore believed that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance. Should the Examiner feel that further discussion and/or amendment would be helpful in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 3, 2006

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